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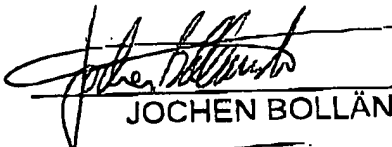
We, Jochen BOLLÄNDER, Torsten BIECK, Hans-Peter STOLL, and Falk SCHAAL, hereby state that we are all of the inventors of the subject matter of United States Patent Application Serial No. 09/915,408.

We herewith state that the correct filing date for the priority document from which priority has been claimed in the said application is July 29, 2000 and not July 31, 2000.

We herewith request that this be corrected in the subject application.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and beliefs are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Date: 5.10.2001


JOCHEN BOLLÄNDER

Date: 12.10.2001


TORSTEN BIECK

Date: 28.09.2001


HANS-PETER STOLL

Date: 28.09.2001

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'S' or 'F' shape with a horizontal line extending to the right.

FALK SCHAAL